

Overview of NOAA Fisheries Columbia Basin Consultations May 5, 2008

Documents being released:

- (1.) 2008 Supplemental Comprehensive Analysis (SCA)
 - the scientific foundation and common analysis for all three biological opinions:
- (2.) 2008-2018 FCRPS Biological Opinion
- (3.) 2008-2034 Upper Snake Biological Opinion
- (4.) 2008-2017 *U.S. v. Oregon* Harvest Management Agreement Biological Opinion
- (5.) Executive Summary of the 2008 FCRPS Biological Opinion
- (6.) Issue Summaries of the 2008 FCRPS Biological Opinion

ESA- Listed Species Covered:

- 13 Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead
- Green Sturgeon of the Southern DPS
- Southern Resident Killer Whales

Actions

- Hydro Operations including surface bypass, spill and transport carefully timed to species' needs, and improved juvenile passage survival performance standards
- Expanded tributary habitat program
- Expanded predation-management program
- Specific commitments & timetable for site-specific hatchery consultations & reforms
- Actions in the 10-year Columbia Basin Fish Memoranda of Agreement
- *US. V. Oregon* Harvest Management Agreement

Collaboration

Judge Redden charged all stakeholders to make collaboration a cornerstone of fish recovery. The 2008 FCRPS Biological Opinion is the result of unprecedented collaboration among four federal agencies, four states and seven Indian tribes for over two years.

Best Available Science

The Independent Scientific Advisory Board reviewed the COMPASS passage model in March 2006, December 2006 and April 2007

The Remand Collaboration brought together federal, state, tribal and other scientists and fishery managers to review the latest information and make recommendations.

Information from the Interior Columbia Technical Recovery Team is incorporated into the analysis.

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Comprehensive and Integrated Analysis

The SCA considers *actions and effects in each life-stage of salmon and steelhead*: hydro, habitat, hatchery and harvest.

The SCA examines *the needs of individual populations of salmon and steelhead* and the species as a whole.

The SCA considers and synthesizes *a variety of common indicators* to assess species' health, including: 24 –year extinction risk, average recruits per spawner, median population growth rate, abundance trend and others.

The SCA evaluates *potential impacts of climate change* on both ocean and inland conditions:

- NOAA Fisheries considered both ocean and inland climate conditions. The effects of climate change are evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively.
- The biological opinions explicitly consider actions that are consistent with the Independent Scientific Advisory Board's mitigation recommendations. The stage is set should mitigation actions become necessary.

The SCA is a reference document that incorporates the relevant data and analysis of all the actions so that ESA jeopardy and critical habitat standards are applied comprehensively.

The individual biological opinions are the decision documents. Each biological opinion explicitly used and incorporated information from the SCA necessary to support their respective determinations.

The biological opinions determine:

- If the extinction risk is sufficiently low to avoid jeopardy and if the species is on a trend to recovery
- If the affected designated critical habitat is likely to remain functional (or retain the ability to become functional) to serve the intended conservation role for the species in the near and long term.

Results and Conclusions

NOAA Fisheries concludes that the actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the 13 listed salmon and steelhead nor result in the destruction or adverse modification of its designated critical habitat.

NOAA Fisheries concludes that the actions are not likely to adversely affect green sturgeon and killer whales.